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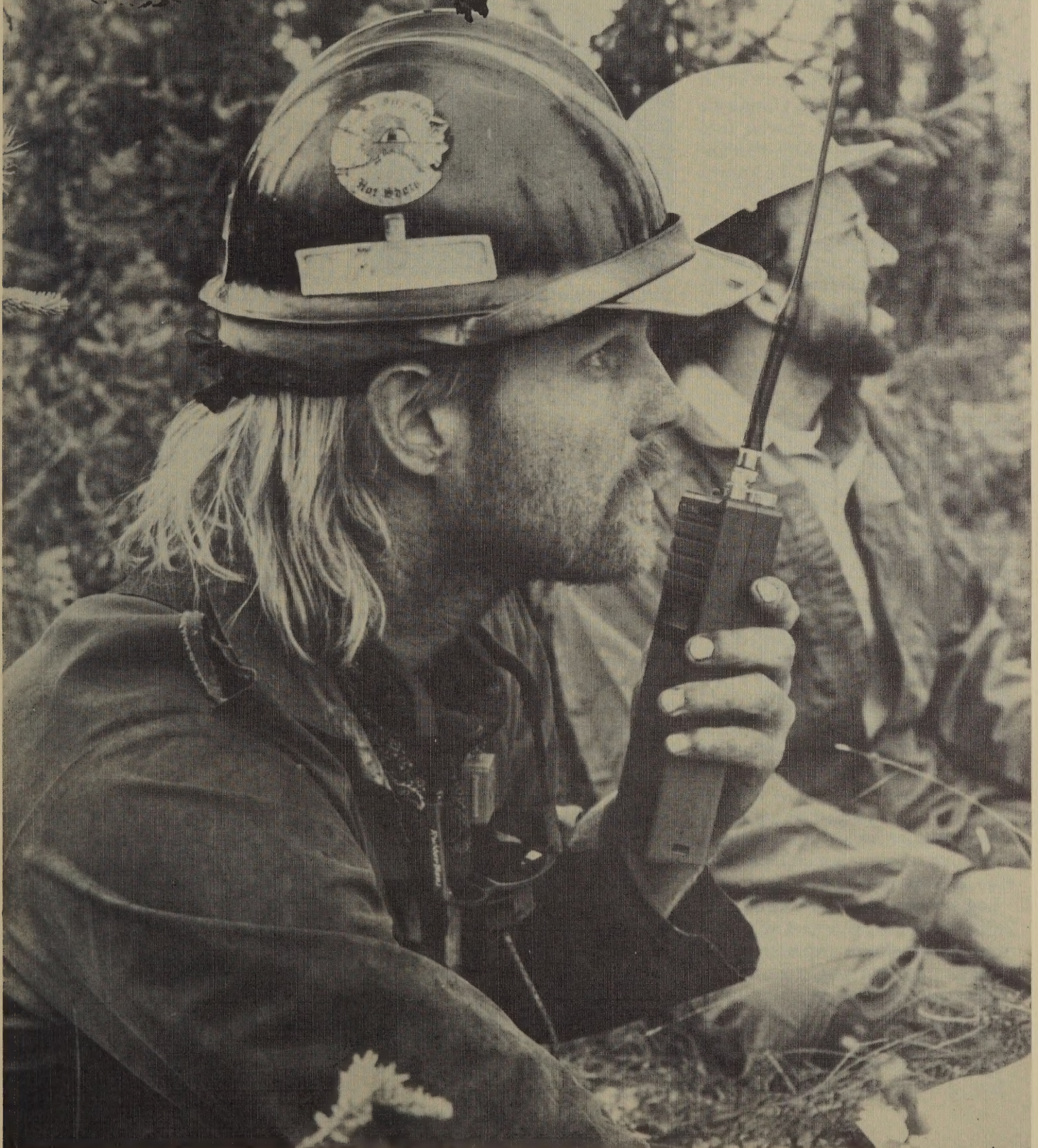
ALASKA PEOPLE

AUGUST 1990

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The Hanaayee Corner

Alaska Fire Service... Innovative, Tough, Unique... AFS's People Make AFS What It Is

When I received a call from Trish to write an article for Hanaayee Corner, we had just moved into some of the most wide-spread, severe fire conditions in the known history of Alaska fire.

Much has already been written or said about our organization: paramilitary, independent thinking, innovative, strict training standards, tough physical training, unique pride in work, can-do attitude, etc. I am sure all of this is true to some degree, but there is more to the Alaska Fire Service and I wondered how I could express my thoughts and feelings.

The original Alaska Fire Control Service (AFCS) was formed in 1939 and evolved into today's highly mobile, modernized Alaska Fire Service (AFS). AFS manages wild fires on more than 173 million acres in northern interior Alaska on lands administered by the BLM, State of Alaska, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Native corporations.

The organization expands and contracts from about 100 persons in the winter months to about 400 people during fire season. AFS contracts and manages a fleet of about 25 aircraft, has a large smokejumper corps, highly trained fire suppression specialists and elite hotshot crews.

Logistical support on fires of up to 2,000 people in the vast roadless areas of Alaska is expensive and complicated and requires AFS to operate one of the largest non-military paracargo operations in the world.

None of this could happen with-



Gene Schloemer

out every single person in the organization doing their job right the first time. Due to the nature of our business, decisions need to be made quickly and there is little room for errors.

My feelings about AFS were probably best expressed by a Forest Service representative on our Fire Readiness Evaluation Group who was visiting Alaska for the first time this spring. He said, "Although it is obvious AFS is a very unique, professional suppression organization, what impressed me most was the attitude of the people."

Every AFS person felt their job was important and necessary in supporting AFS's fire suppression mission.

To me that says it all!

Gene Schloemer,
Manager
Alaska Fire Service

Pronounced ha nie' yee, hanaayee is Koyukon Athabaskan for "reporter" or "one who talks."

Child Care Update

Anchorage's federal child care center is under construction at 549 East Fifth Avenue. Plans are for the center to be open sometime this fall.

Developmental Day School Director Dr. Craig Boswell, who will run the center, was in town last month to brief parents at lunchtime meetings at the Anchorage Federal Building, Minerals Management Service and the Alaska Native Hospital.

"We are looking for the best local center manager we can find," said Boswell. "The center will have four classrooms and a full kitchen.

The new building will be 6,000 square feet and will house approximately 70 children. It will have four classrooms: Infants (6 weeks to 12 months), Toddlers (12 to 30 months), Preschool I (ages 30 months to 3 1/2 years) and Preschool II (ages 3 1/2 to 6 years).

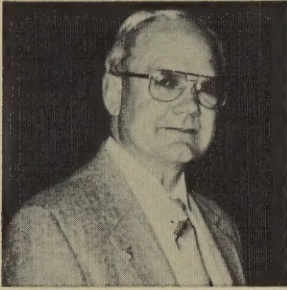
Tuition schedules will soon be available. Since space is limited, the priority order for spaces will be: participating federal agencies, nonparticipating federal agencies and the general public.

Developmental Day School is a non-profit organization established in Utah in 1973. For the past four years they have concentrated on on-site and federal day care centers.



The walls of Anchorage's new federal child care center building are up.

Rosenkrance is New Arizona SD



Alaska Associate State Director Les Rosenkrance is the new Arizona State Director.

In his new job he will direct land management operations on over 12.5 million acres of Arizona BLM land. He will oversee a 20 million dollar Arizona BLM budget and 454 employees in 17 offices.

Rosenkrance first came to Alaska from Idaho in 1974 as fire management officer for Anchorage District's Peninsula Resource

Area. "I was involved in some of the first prescribed fires on the Kenai Peninsula and worked on transferring fire protection of the Anchorage bowl and the Suisitna Valley to the State. Rosenkrance was also the originator of the now traditional Outdoor Week at Campbell Tract.

He became Fortymile Resource Area Manager in Tok in 1976; joined the Alaska Program Staff in Washington D.C. in 1978; became district manager in Safford, Arizona in 1981 and came back to BLM-Alaska as associate state director in 1987.

"Alaska BLM is on the threshold of a real leadership role in resource management, and working with the state in complimentary programs. I wish I could stay and participate further in the effort."

Come join us in saying goodbye!
Farewell Luncheon for

Les Rosenkrance

When: September 6,
11:30 am

Where: The Elks Club
717 W. 3rd Ave.

Cost: \$10.50 per person

Tickets: Available from ASO
Public Affairs (912)

Phone: 271-5555



*We'll all miss you, Les!
Good Luck!*

Tickets must be purchased by
Tuesday, September 4, 1990.



Helen Hankins

associate district manager at the Anchorage District.

"I'm looking forward to being back in the far north, and especially to living in Fairbanks," Hankins said. "I'm also excited about the challenges of this new job."

Hankins joined BLM about 20 years ago in a work study program at the University of New Mexico. She graduated with a bachelor of science degree in geology. In 1974 she joined BLM full-time as a geologist for the San Juan Resource Area in Montrose District, Colo.

Hankins enjoys weaving in her spare time, and is a dedicated member of Toastmasters International. Hankins and her husband Michael Mauser, an engineer, like to travel, backpack and kayak.

Dee Ritchie is the new Arctic district manager. He

Fairbanks Has Two New DMs

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Helen Hankins is the new Kobuk district manager. Hankins comes to Fairbanks from Washington D.C. where she worked as a program analyst in the Budget Office. Prior to that she spent several years as a geologist and more recently as an as-

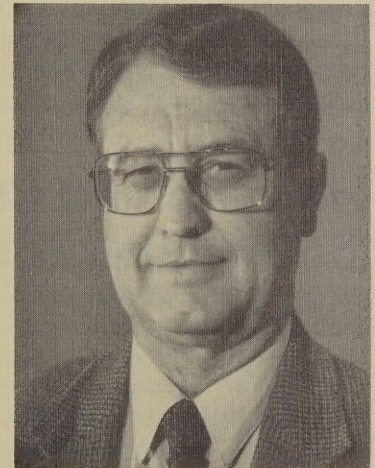
has a bachelor's degree in forestry, range and wildlife management and a master's degree in botany, range management and plant pathology.

Ritchie has worked as a forester, range conservationist, wildlife biologist, watershed specialist, recreation specialist, district

forest ranger and a public information officer on five different national forests in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho for the U.S. Forest Service.

Since joining BLM, he has been a ranger conservationist, EIS team leader, state wilderness coordinator, chief of resources, assistant district manager and national range specialist. He was also a Legislative Fellow in the U.S. Senate, serving on Nevada Senator Harry Reid's staff, and was on the Appropriations Committee for the BLM.

The Ritchies have eight children. His spare time activities include Civil War history, reading, fishing, hunting, photography, gun smithing, boating and camping.



Dee Ritchie

Meet BLM's Tok Office

Although small in the number of employees, the Tok field office's responsibilities stretch from Eagle to the north, Delta to the west, the Canadian Border to the east and approximately 30 miles south of Tok. The Tok office serves as a satellite office of the Steese/White Mountains District in Fairbanks

A large part of Tok's workload surrounds the Forty-mile Wild and Scenic River System, 390 miles of which passes through BLM lands.

Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist **Bob Burritt** heads up the staff.

Outdoor Recreation Planner **Holli McClain** manages the recreation areas, including two campgrounds and three boat landings along the Taylor Highway, the Chicken Field Station at Mile 49, and Ft. Egbert at Eagle.

Realty Specialist **Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle** is in charge of the long-term camping program within the Forty-mile Corridor, suction dredgers along the river, rights-of-way and trespass cabins.

Contact Representative **Eloise Howard** provides Tok area residents and visitors with many of the land information services similar to those provided by the Anchorage and Fairbanks Public Rooms. If you call Tok BLM, you're most likely to get Eloise. Raised in Eagle, she knows the area.

Natural Resource Specialist **Dave Mickelson** works primarily with placer miners on 3809 compliance and reclamation requirements.



(left to right) Holli McClain, Bob Burritt, Eloise Howard, Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle

Tok Office BLMers experienced the infamous Tok fire first hand. In early July, Bob Burritt called Fairbanks BLM to let them know a wildfire was threatening the town of Tok.

A U-Haul and eight BLM staff were dispatched from Fairbanks to remove Tok BLM's office furniture to Tanacross.

Not only did the Tok staff have to help move BLM office equipment, but at the same time, they were busy moving valuables out of their own homes. "It was pretty stressful," said Howard. "We're grateful to still be here!"

Although the Tok fire continues to burn, it no longer threatens the town of Tok and by Monday, July 9, it was business as usual at BLM's Tok office.

Lillian Named Chief of the U.S. Delegation of the Women's Fast Pitch World Championship

by Ed Bovy

ASO's Pat Lillian, was recently named chief of the U.S. delegation to the U.S. team in the Seventh Women's Fast Pitch World Championship for the International World Softball Association. The tournament is held once every four years.

As chief of the delegation, Lillian was responsible for the housing, transportation, travel, meals, practice and even discipline for the 17 players, the manager and two coaches.

"It was a big job, but not nearly as complicated as it could have been if the tournament was held overseas," says Lillian. Twenty teams entered the tournament, held in Decatur, Illinois in mid-July.

"The teams were divided into two divisions. The U.S. team was 9-0 and allowed a total of only one earned run. In the other division, New Zealand was 8-1.

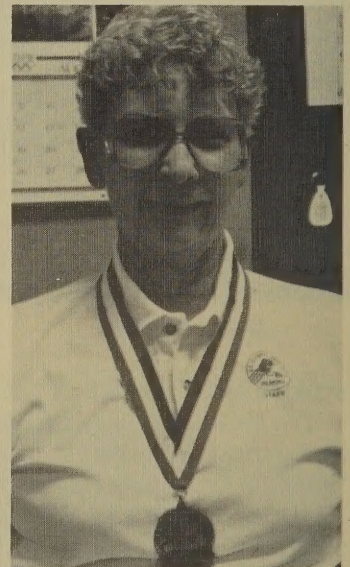
"In the gold medal round we were tied at 0-0 in the fourth inning when the rains came. It poured and poured. They finally had to call the game off because

people had planes to catch. Everyone was disappointed we couldn't finish.

"The U.S. team was awarded the gold medal because of our best overall record and the fact that we beat New Zealand in an earlier game.

"Each person on the team and the coaches got a medal." A huge trophy is now on display at the office of the National Softball Association in Oklahoma.

"Working with the International World Softball Association is a great opportunity to meet people and represent your country," said Lillian.



Pat Lillian

Anchorage Looks Back to its Beginnings

by Danielle Allen

Seventy-five years ago, a tent city came to life on the banks of Ship Creek. Plans for a railroad to pass through the area brought newcomers looking for steady employment.

Before railroad construction could begin, the Anchorage Townsite had to be established and lots sold. The government wanted to move the transient folks out of tents and into permanent homes.

BLM's predecessor (the General Land Office), with help from the Alaska Engineering Commission, laid out the townsite. The GLO then held a land auction.

To commemorate the auction and that early tent city, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Tent City Festival (June 29 - July 10) on the banks of Ship Creek in Anchorage.

A miniature tent city, reminiscent of the one 75 years ago, was created. Many tent city proprietors dressed in period clothing. Tents held businesses representative of that era such as a newspaper, bank, post office and city hall interspersed between narrow pathways strewn with wood chips. Other tents held historical exhibits and food vendors.

BLM's historical tent explained its role in the development of Anchorage with historic photos and old surveying equipment.

Forty-two employees staffed the BLM exhibit during the 11-day Tent City Festival. The majority rated the experience as extremely positive.

Jim Ducker, Office of Management, Planning and Budget said, "You don't have to find any other staffers for the booth next time, I'll do it myself."

Robin Rodriguez of Conveyances found the whole event too commercial.

Sue Faught of Minerals and Karen Collie of the Anchorage District felt a video or more items in the BLM tent would have improved its appearance and brought in more visitors.

Sonda Julissen of IRM thought the exhibit was extremely well done and captured the essence of the time.

The festival ended July 10 with a reenactment of the auction. Anchorage District Manager Dick Vernimen, Senator Ted Stevens and Anchorage Mayor Tom Fink gave speeches about the significance of tent city.



BLM's tent at Tent City

I was reluctant to participate but the people I met made it so interesting. People who visited our exhibit had so much to say. They were impressed with the townsite map. Some would sign on their lot and tell its history. One man was a real estate agent who gave me an appraisal history of the area for the last 30 years."

Brenda Matthews
Resources

"Our booth was extremely appropriate for the event. We made a good impression on many people. If we could have pulled in a celebrity like the Post Office did (the Post Office had noted Alaskan artist Myron Birdsall signing Tent City artwork), we would have attracted more people."

John Thompson
Office of Management, Planning and Budget

"It was fun being a part of history. After we put a transit (an instrument used by surveyors for measuring distances) on a tripod, it peaked a lot of interest. I got questions like: How much does it cost to survey? What is it like to survey? I also got questions about the the original townsite such as: Are there any original buildings left? Are people still alive who owned the original lots? "

Phil Wilkins
Cadastral Survey

Summer A Fire Season



Nature provided the 4th of July fireworks with lightning strikes. By the end of July firefighters were battling blazes burning on almost 2.4 million acres.

By mid August, 750 fires had burned 2.4 million acres. These fires ranged from a tenth of an acre to 10,000 acres.

All 350 BLM Alaska Fire Service employees and 1,000 volunteers have been working at a feverish pace to contain fires that threatened valuable resources, such as timber, wildlife, and recreation.

Although the Tok fire roared right up to the Tok Fire Station, firefighters managed to avert damage to the station.

"It's been a long season," said BLM Fire Service Manager Gene Schloemer.



(top left) Midnight Sun Hot Shot Darla Heston checks a relative humidity reading on the Beaver Fire.

(middle left) Midnight Sun Hot Shots pump water to the fireline on the Beaver Fire.

(bottom left) Anchorage Times photographer John Tetpon (far right) interviews Fire Service Manager Dave Dash (middle right) and Fire Service Specialist Jack Wilson (left) about the fire situation.

(center) AFS Manager Gene Schloemer (right) discusses the fire situation with Jack Wilson (left) and Alaska State Director Dave Dash (middle right).

(middle right) Fire Suppression Specialist Jack Wilson discusses acreage on the Beaver fire.

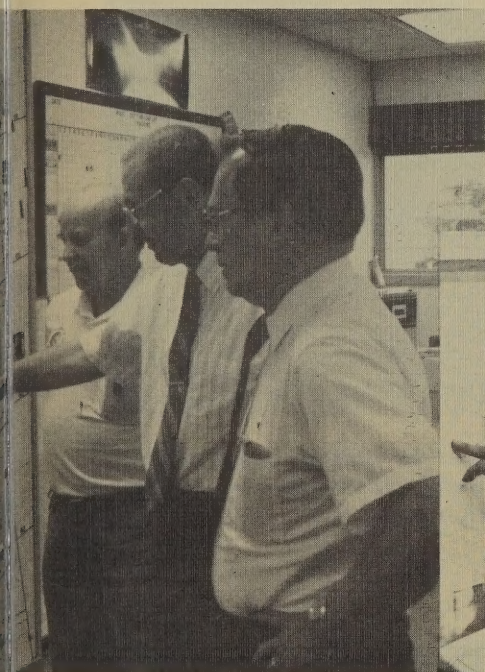
(top right) Chena Hot Shots cut fireline on the Beaver fire.

(bottom right) Dispatchers at larger fires have modern technology such as copy machines for map disposal.

er 1990 o Remember!

ks this year, sending almost 4,000
roximately 2,600 fire fighters were
illion acres.
t 2.9 million acres, 100 fires were still
n of an acre to 360,000 acres in size.
pyees and many others from across the
h since early July to control the blazes
ctures or lives.
go the town of Tok on July 5th, the fire-
town and the Coast Guard Loran

Fe Information Officer Sue Mitchell.



Heselquist takes a temperature and
re fire.

water out of a lake to wet a

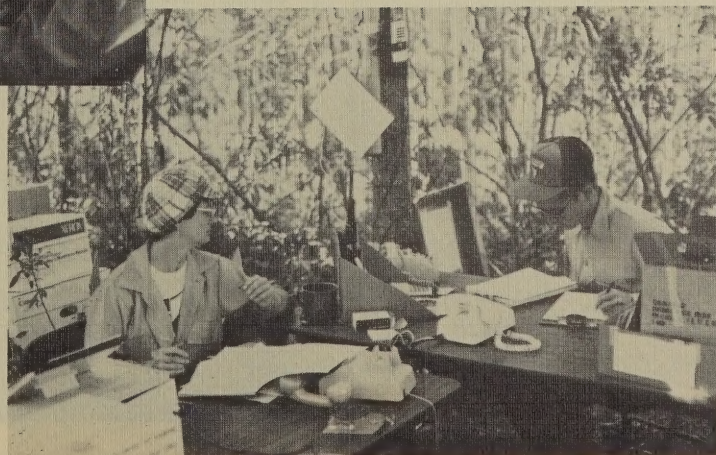
ter Russ Kendall (far left) and
Beaver Fire Incident Com-
okejumper Bert Mitman

iddle) briefs BIFC BLM Director
or Ed Spang on the Alaska fire

andy Lenon maps the increased

ne Minchumina Fire.

even the remotest locations
d Fax machines at their



Northern Advisory Council Visits the Fortymile Country

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

After a short flight from Fairbanks to Chicken in a Twin Otter plane, the Northern Alaska Advisory Council donned their life jackets and grabbed paddles. Bent on adventure, they were ready to float the Mosquito Fork, rain or no rain.

And rain it mostly was, for the next six hours. The Advisory Council viewed the mining and recreational issues facing BLM on the Fortymile National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River system.

After spending the night at BLM's Chicken Field Station, the group boarded a bus for a road trip to Eagle. There were frequent stops to watch active mining operations, tour BLM campgrounds, and see realty issues being handled by BLM's Tok staff.

At Eagle, the first incorporated city in Alaska, Mrs. Elva Scott, vice-president of the Eagle Historical Society, gave the council members a tour of the city and its museum displays.

The evening was topped off with a potluck dinner at the old schoolyard, hosted by the historical society and attended by many of the residents of Eagle.

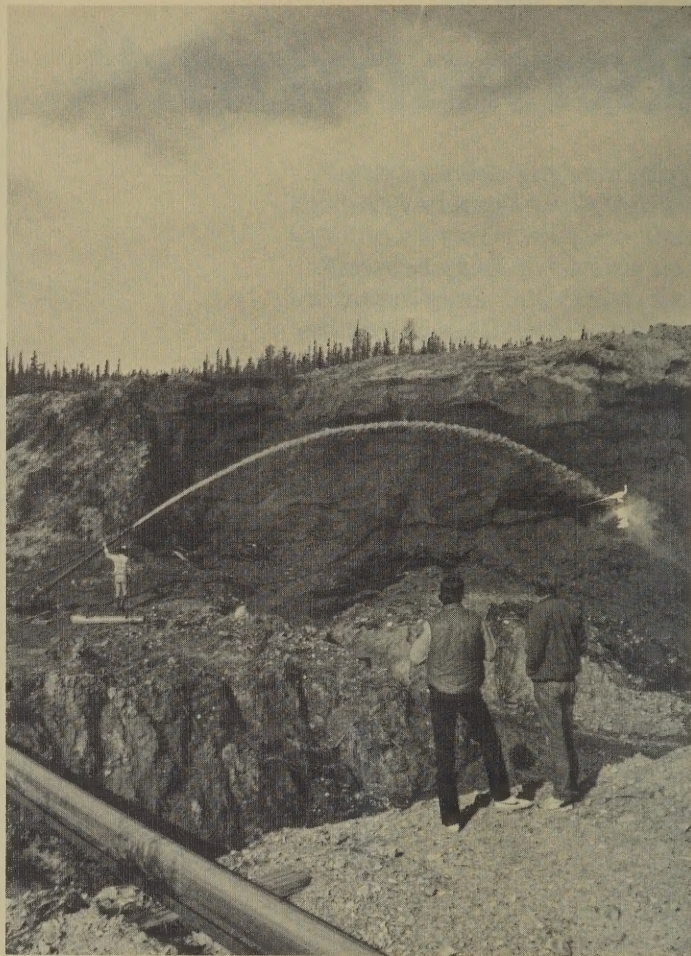
"The dinner gave us time to meet and talk with many of the people of Eagle," said Karen Cedzo, chair for the advisory council.

The good relationships started that night lasted through Saturday morning as the small Eagle City Library filled up for the advisory council's public meeting. A mixed group of miners, recreationists, historical preservationists and generally concerned citizens gave comment and discussed issues with the council.

"Seeing everything first hand makes it so much more real than when we sit in a room in Fairbanks and just talk about it," said Chris Birch, who represents transportation/rights-of-way on the council.

Associate State Director Les Rosenkrance examines a falling roofline on a cabin in the woods along the Fortymile River. The cabin is one of a group of deteriorating cabins that may have provided housing for workers on the historic gold dredge on Mosquito Fork around 1939.

Members of the Northern Alaska Advisory Council learned about local realty issues when they visited the site and explored the area during their field trip June 21-23.



Members of BLM's Northern Alaska Advisory Council visited the Lost Chicken Hill Mine during their recent trip to the Fortymile country north of Tok.



Steese/White Mountains District Puts Up New Public Recreation Cabin

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

An early June lull in Alaskan fire activity triggered an alliance between the Steese/White Mountains District recreation staff and the Alaska Fire Service. The result: public recreation cabin #7 in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

This latest cabin will provide overnight accommodations for cross country skiers and snowmachiners traveling between the Borealis-LeFevre and Windy Gap cabins. The distance between the cabins has been reduced from 23 miles to about 12.

Four smokejumpers started clearing a new trail, which will connect Lower Fossil Creek Trail and Colorado Creek Trail. Scheduled for completion next winter, it will give the public several choices for loop trips in that area. Several different loop variations can be done in three or four days. These options allow the user to avoid excessive backtracking.

The new cabin and trail brings the recreational improvements planned by BLM for the western section of the White Mountains area near comple-

tion. One more cabin remains on the drawing board for this area.

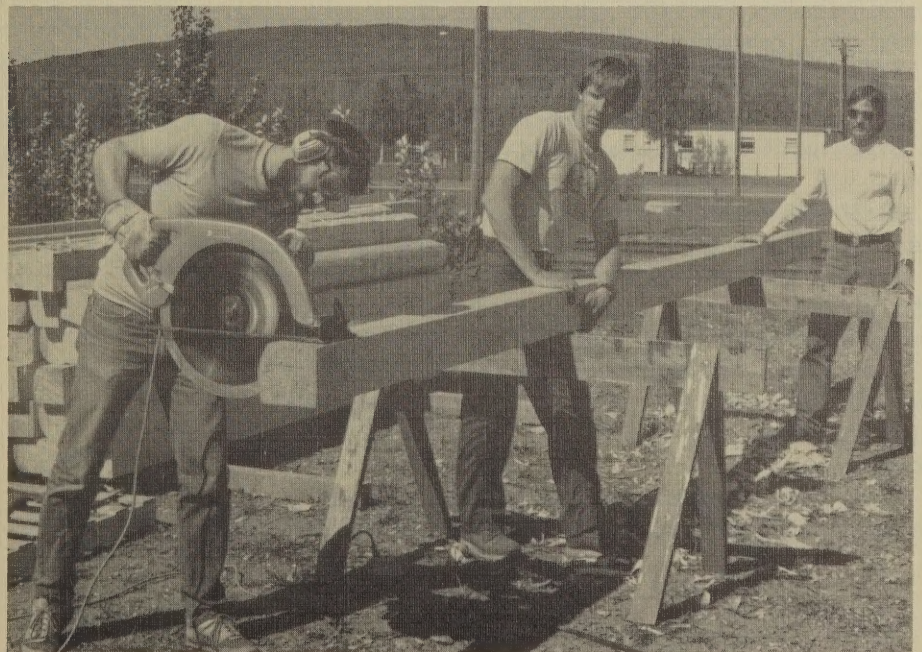
Plans for the joint venture had been made well ahead of time on the off chance that the cabin could be put up before the 1990 fire season got hot. A call from AFS in late May announced that aircraft and labor were available. Randy Goodwin, Dick Bouts and Lon Kelly, of the Steese/White Mountains recreation staff coordinated with Steve Banks from AFS to get the materials ready. Several fire suppression specialists peeled the bark off the logs.

A fire bust resulted in a one-week delay, but then AFS airlifted 20,000 pounds of logs, lumber, hardware and tools to the site on Fossil Creek. Fire suppression specialists Matt Crudde, Tom Schmidt, Beth Brown and Mike Landau, working with BLM carpenter Bill Baker and engineer Roger Evans, finished the job June 15.

The new 10-by-12 log cabin has room for six people to sleep. Bunk beds (2 can sleep on the bottom, 1 on the top) were built into the cabin, along with a fold-down table and benches. There is an outhouse nearby. A wood heating stove and a woodshed will be installed by October.

Randy Goodwin, outdoor recreation planner for the Steese/White Mountains District, trims a log with the help of two fire suppression specialists from BLM's Alaska Fire Service.

The materials were precut and finished as much as possible at Fort Wainwright before airlifting, cutting down on the weight and time needed at the cabin site for construction. (photo by Dan Gullickson)



The Latest on the SF 171

by Sheila Brown

The Office of Personnel Management has issued additional instructions on reproduced SF-171s (application for federal employment). Previous instructions stated that only "exact replicas," such as photocopies, may be accepted. "Exact replica" now includes electronically reproduced SF-171s which meet the guidelines listed below:

- a. Like a photocopy, an electronic reproduction must be complete, containing all instructions and questions which appear on the official form. The working and punctuation of all items and instructions must be exactly the same as the current version of the SF-171.
- b. The sequence and format of each item on the SF-171 must be reproduced to the highest degree possible. For item 24, formats with one experience block per page are acceptable. Each experience block must be identified with a capital letter in date order starting with the most recent. The final document must be printed in black ink on standard white paper measuring 8.5" by 11" and, if printed on both sides of a page, must be head to foot.
- c. Any form with poor print quality or other defect which renders it illegible or very difficult to read will not be accepted. Laser printers or near letter quality printers should be used to print reproduction forms. Dot-matrix printers which can only produce draft quality print should not be used.
- d. The electronic reproduction should identify the software producer (name and address-telephone number is optional) at the bottom of page four underneath the signature and date blocks.

All SF-171 reproductions which meet the guidelines listed above should be accepted by federal agencies.

Software producers and users should be aware that the SF-171 is revised about every three years. More frequent revisions may occur. OPM publishes all SF-171 revisions in the Federal Register. The SF-171 (Rev. 02/84) edition expires on December 31, 1990. After that date, only the SF-171 (Rev. 06/88) will be accepted.

If you have questions call ASO Staffing, Sandy Larson at 271-3159 or Sheila Brown at 271-3758.

Workwise or Otherwise

The Alaska Fire Service's interagency role in Alaskan wildfire suppression has expanded this year with the addition of a state fire operations forester, a position formerly in Anchorage. **Joe Stam** transferred June 1 from a position as area forester in McGrath to take the position in Fairbanks. "This is where the fire activity is," said Stam. "Everything goes through here."

The fire operations forester is responsible for the hands-on operations of the state fire program, both presuppression and suppression. He coordinates between the state fire suppression areas and regional offices and is the contact for other agencies. He is the state's equivalent to AFS Associate Manager Dick O'Connell.

Jevon Miller, son of **John Miller**, ASO Division of Information Resources, took first place in the 100-meter dash competition at the Jessie Owens games. For his efforts he won a bike and a helmet.

The **Public Lands Foundation**, a public interest group comprised of retired BLM employees is interested in assisting BLM in resolving issues related to the management of public land. One of the issues they have decided to tackle is looking into ways to improve the accessibility to public land.

During the next twelve months they will be conducting a critical BLM access needs study. This study will involve contacts with all field offices by regional representatives of the Public Lands Foundation on local access issues. The initial inventory stage of this study is planned for this summer.

The study will be based on current planning information and the results of previous studies which have found that a significant acreage of public land is physically and legally inaccessible to BLM personnel and to the general public. PLF will identify important areas in each BLM resource area where access is lacking.

Clarence "Sarge" J. Waller

Longtime Eagle resident and BLM employee Clarence "Sarge" Waller, 57, passed away June 26 at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Born November 12, 1932, in Massillon, Ohio, Mr. Waller arrived in Alaska in June 1960, after serving 10 years in the Marine Corps where he saw action in Korea and Lebanon.

He moved to Eagle in 1970, and was employed by BLM as maintenance employee in charge of the Fort Egbert buildings. Mr. Waller led tours of the buildings, giving endless hours of pleasure to thousands of visitors to Eagle.

He is survived by his wife, Mattie Louise Waller of Eagle; daughters Slana Loughmiller and Holly Waller of California.

The family suggests contributions may be made to the Korean War Veteran Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1380, Washington D.C., 20013.

*The above information was taken from the Tok Mukluk Newspaper



Applause

Sustained Superior Performance Award

Dean Crabbs, Criminal Investigator, ASO Division of Support Services

Special Act

Cheryl Rolland, Civil Engineer, ASO Division of Support Services

On-the-Spot Cash Award

Kay Schaeffer, Secretary, ASO Division of Support Services

Gary Paddock, Communications Specialist, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

Length of Service Awards

10 Year Pin

David Edge, Computer Program Analyst, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

20 Year Pin

Robert Rinehart, Realty Specialist, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

Steve Warden, Fire Support Specialist, AFS

Robert Evans, Aviation Management Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services

Cecil Strader, Small Engine Mechanic, ASO Division of Support Services

Mark Lacy, Warehouse Worker Leader, AFS

*The information above was provided by ASO Office of Personnel

Welcome Aboard (July 1990)

Helen Hankins, Kobuk District Manager, Kobuk District

Dee Ritchie, Arctic District Manager, Arctic District

Carl Pearson, Laborer, ASO Division of Support Services

Thelma McCoy, Archaeologist, Glennallen District

Moving On (July 1990)

Marcella Goins-Rice, Cartographer, ASO Division of Support Services

Ella Banks, Supply Clerk, ASO Division of Support Services

Carol Canterbury, Lead, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Support Services

Thomas Goheen, Supervisory Forestry Technician, AFS

Anne Wood, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Support Services

Irene Garcia-Sandoval, Secretary (Typing), ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Deborah Bertossa, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Dorothy Kieffer, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Kirk Rowdabaugh, Budget Analyst, ASO Office of Management Planning and Budget

John Farnsworth, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Retirements:

Douglas M. Griffith, Support Services Supervisor, AFS

Catered Meals...An Alaska Firefighting First!

Barbecued pork chops, baked potatoes and corn, scrambled eggs, bacon and pancakes; these were just a couple of the entrees served to Tok firefighters in July.

For Lower 48 firefighters this was expected, but for Alaska firefighters it was a first. Dehydrated Meals-Ready-to-Eat, (MREs), supplemented with occasional fresh food boxes, are the usual cuisine.

"Lamb & Associates caterers are providing 3,000 meals a day," said Food Unit Leader Steve Roach. Roach is in charge of the Alaska Fire Service's food services.

"To make sure that all the crews get two hot meals a day, we serve breakfast from 5:00 a.m. until noon and dinner from 5:00 p.m. until 11 p.m.

"We are preparing 100 gallons of coffee a day, mountains of cereal and 2,000 sack lunches," says Roach. "The food is delivered in 40' refrigerator trailers from Fairbanks. "We are going through approximately one trailer every other day.

"Lamb & Associates have been trying to get us to try firefighter catering for the past two years," says Roach. The Tok fire provided the opportunity to try it. The original agreement called for serving 300 firefighters per day. In just a few days it rose to 500, then to 800 and



Steve Roach (left) and Rob McWhorter, ASO Public Affairs, at the Tok Fire Incident Command Post

then to more than a 1,000," says Roach.

It's been quite an adventure. Not only is this the first time Lamb & Assoc. has catered a fire, but on July 5 the fire overran the Incident Command Post.

In the scramble to evacuate to the nearby gravel pit, they had to pull their propane tank, generator and the rest of their equipment into the gravel pit with them. They used their 500-gallon water tank to hose down the equipment, then had to reset up after the fire passed so they could serve dinner.

A few days later the command post was moved and they had to break down everything again.

"In spite of the pitfalls...overall it's been a very successful operation," says Roach.

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Tricia Hogervorst-Rukke
Layout - Jim Mroczek



On the Cover:

Skip Theisen, Superintendent of AFS's Chena Hot Shots, talks to a crewmember on the Minchumina Fire.

Theisen comes from a family of firefighters, his brother Steve is an AFS smokejumper, brother Mike is a foreman on AFS's Northstar crew and brother Tim is on AFS's Midnight Sun Hot Shot Crew. Skip's father, George Theisen, is on the fire staff on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington.



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